R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE CLAIMS

Independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the storage device stores a frame of image data, audio data which is generated before and at a pick-up timing of the frame of image data, and time data indicating the pick-up timing, as well as to clarify that the image reproducing device reproduces the frame of image data to display an image of the frame of image data on the display device, and to clarify that the controller controls the image reproducing device so that a display size of the image of the frame of image data gradually changes until the audio reproducing device reproduces the audio data generated at the pick-up timing.

In addition, independent "computer-readable medium" and method claims 17 and 22 have been amended along the lines of amended independent claim 1, and new claims 23-28 have been added to recite additional features of the present invention disclosed in the specification and drawings.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

According to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1, an image and audio reproducing apparatus is provided which comprises a display device, a storage device which stores a frame of image data, audio data which is generated before and at a pick-up timing of the frame of image data, and time data indicating the pick-up timing. In addition, as recited in amended independent claim 1, an audio reproducing device reproduces the audio data, and an image reproducing device reproduces the frame of image data to display an image of the frame of image data on the display device. Still further, as recited in amended independent claim 1, a controller controls the image reproducing device so that a display size of the image of the frame of image data gradually changes until the audio reproducing device reproduces the audio data generated at the pick-up timing.

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner has maintained the rejection set forth in the Final Office Action whereby claims 1-4, 10-13, 15-17 and 22 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of USP 6,229,953 ("Ejima et al") and US 2001/0003464 ("Niikawa"); and claim 14 was rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Ejima et al, Niikawa and USP 4,965,675 ("Hori et al").

It is respectfully submitted, however, that Niikawa does not disclose, teach or suggest the above described feature of the

present invention as recited in each of amended independent claims 1, 17 and 22 whereby reproducing of the frame of image data is controlled so that a display size of the image of the frame of image data gradually changes until the audio data generated at the pick-up timing is reproduced.

In particular, Niikawa discloses a digital camera having an electronic zoom function. According to the digital camera of Niikawa, in the photography standby state of the photographic mode, pixel data of an image sensed at specific intervals by the image sensing unit 3 are processed by the image processor 200, and stored in the image memory 209 (see paragraph [0065] of Niikawa.)

Further, in Niikawa, since images are sensed at specific intervals in the photography standby state, the resulting image data includes plural frames sensed at the specific intervals. Therefore, in Niikawa, the processed plural frames ought to be displayed sequentially at the specific intervals.

By contrast, according to the claimed present invention, (at least) a frame of picked-up image data is stored, the stored frame of image data is reproduced and an image of the frame is displayed on a display.[1] And it is respectfully submitted that, contrary to the claimed present invention, Niikawa does not

[1] Claim 13, moreover, recites plural sets of a frame of image data and audio data.

disclose, teach or suggest performing processing on the same frame of the same image.

Moreover, according to Niikawa, in 2x zooming, a 1/2 thinness process is performed on image data of an area of 800x600 pixels in the center area among the 1600x1200 pixel image data within the image memory 209, to derive image data of 400x300 pixels, which is stored in the VRAM 210 (see paragraph [0084] of Niikawa.) That is, in Niikawa, the image data stored in the image memory 209 is subjected to thinness process, and thereafter transferred to the VRAM 210, and displayed on the LCD 10 (see paragraph [0065] of Niikawa.) In other words, according to Niikawa, the center area is extracted from the pixel image data in the image memory 209 and subjected to the thinness process, and then, the resulting image data is transferred to the VRAM 210 to be displayed.

Therefore, since the image memory 209 is a memory for storing pixel data output from the image processor and has a 1-frame memory capacity (see paragraph [0063] of Niikawa), and the VRAM 210 is a buffer memory for image data reproduced and displayed on the LCD 10 (see paragraph [0064] of Niikawa), the frame to be subjected to the thinness process is not the frame which is stored in the VRAM 210 but a frame which is stored in the image memory 209 and has not displayed.

That is, when the magnification is set by operating one of the buttons 231 and 232 in Niikawa, the thinness process is performed not on the image data being currently displayed on the LCD 10 but on the image data which has not yet been displayed and is stored in the image memory 209. Since the image memory 209 has a 1-frame memory capacity, different frames are sequentially stored in the image memory 209 and erased therefrom at the specific intervals. Therefore, contrary to the claimed present invention, with the digital camera of Niikawa, it is not possible to change a display size (or zoom magnification) of the same frame. In other words, an image to be displayed in response to the magnification change is based on a frame which is different from a frame based on which an image has been displayed just before the magnification change.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that even if Ejima et al and Niikawa were combinable in the manner suggested by the Examiner, such combination would still not disclose, teach or suggest the features of the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1, 17 and 22 whereby reproducing of the frame of image data is controlled so that a display size of the image of the frame of image data gradually changes until the audio data generated at the pick-up timing is reproduced.

In addition, it is respectfully pointed out that according to the present invention as recited in new claim 23, a display

area on which the image is displayed gradually changes. By contrast, in Niikawa, only zoom magnification changes, and the display area of the LCD of Niikawa does not change.

Still further, according to the present invention as recited in new claim 24, the number of pixels in the frame is changed in accordance with a designated display size. However, in Niikawa, the numbers of pixel are different between frames.

And finally, it is noted that according to the present invention as recited in new claim 25, the image is displayed in a predetermined first display size when the audio reproducing device reproduces the audio data generated at the pick-up timing. And it is respectfully submitted that this feature of the present invention is also not disclosed in Niikawa.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1, 17 and 22, and claims 2-4, 10-16 and 23-28 depending from claim 1, clearly patentably distinguishes over the cited references, taken singly or in combination, under 35 USC 103.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

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